



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 5, 2003

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CHAFEE ANNOUNCES LABOR DEPARTMENT DECISION: TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR FORMER WORKERS AT ARLON, INC OF EAST PROVIDENCE

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that the U.S. Department of Labor has determined that approximately 25 former employees of Arlon, Inc., Engineered Coatings & Laminates Division of East Providence are now eligible to apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance. The workers were engaged in employment related to the production of motor and transformer insulation and other laminated and coated products used for electronic insulation.

“It is good news for those employees of Arlon, Incorporated that they will be able to have federal assistance, both financial and in retraining,” said Senator Chafee. “I urge all affected employees to take full advantage of these benefits while they are seeking other employment,” Chafee continued.

Under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act (TAA), employees displaced due to increased competition from imported products may apply for federal assistance with retaining and compensation. Senator Chafee supported expansion of (TAA) as part of the “Fast Track” trade legislation that he championed last year. Because of this, benefits in the TAA increased from 78 to 104 the number of weeks eligible workers can receive compensation; increased the cap on total job-training funds from \$110 million to \$220 million, dramatically increasing the number of displaced workers who will receive benefits; and increased from \$800 to \$1,250 the per person allowance for job search costs.

An investigation initiated on October 8, 2003 in response to a petition filed on behalf of workers revealed that Arlon, Incorporated, Engineered Coatings & Laminates Division, supplies electronic insulation for interconnects and a loss of business with a manufacturer (whose workers were certified eligible to apply for adjustment assistance) contributed importantly to the workers separation or threat of separation. In addition, a significant number of workers at the firm are age 50 or over and possess skills that are not easily transferable.

(more)

In conclusion, Elliott S. Kushner, certifying officer in the Labor Department's Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance, determined "that workers of Arlon, Incorporated, qualify as adversely affected secondary workers under Section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

As a result, "All workers of Arlon, Incorporated, Engineered Coatings & Laminates Division, East Providence, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after September 29, 2002, through two years from the date of certification are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974 and are also eligible to apply for alternative trade adjustment assistance under Section 246 of the Trade Act of 1974."

For more information, contact Plant Manager Joseph DiSano at 401 434-2340.

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